



# ***Spotlight on Redevelopment***

An Online Newsletter of the Redevelopment Agency of Long Beach, CA

January 2006  
Volume 1, Issue 3

## ***NEW Redevelopment Agency Board Meeting Schedule***

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

January 23 at 5:00 p.m.  
February 13 at 9:00 a.m.  
February 27 at 5:00 p.m.  
March 13 at 9:00 a.m.  
March 27 at 5:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers  
Long Beach City Hall  
333 Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA

## ***Community Open House***

### **Discussion of City Hall East and other Downtown Development Proposals**

Monday Jan. 30, 2006  
First Congregational  
Church—Patterson Hall  
241 Cedar Avenue  
6:00-9:00 p.m.

Info: Sheri 562-570-5922

## **Redevelopment Agency Board News**

# **Redevelopment Agency Board Changes Meeting Schedule to Encourage Public Participation**

In an ongoing effort to increase public involvement in the activities of the Redevelopment Agency, the Board voted last month to make changes to their meeting schedule to allow more residents to attend their bi-monthly meetings.

For years, the Redevelopment Agency Board has held meetings at 9:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Monday of the month.

Starting in January of 2006, the Board will hold one of their meetings in the morning and one at night, in hopes that people who work during the day will attend the night session. The Board will now meet at 9:00 a.m. on the second Monday of the month and at 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month.

"This is a very exciting year for the Redevelopment Agency and we are making changes to how we do business to encourage more residents to

get involved," said Thomas Fields, chair of the Redevelopment Agency Board. "We are implementing a number of new practices and communication tools that will help us get the word out about what we are working on and encourage residents to get involved.

"Changing one of our meetings to the evening is just one of many ways we are asking residents for more input."

The schedule change will take place on a three-month trial basis. Attendance will be tracked to determine if the schedule change increases attendance at meetings and public involvement.

"These meetings are a great opportunity for residents to learn about what we are working on in their neighborhood," added Fields, "They are also a great way for residents to get to know who we are and participate in the decision-making process. The meetings can be very informative and we hope more people decide to join us."

## **West Long Beach Industrial Redevelopment Project Area**

# **Westside Project Area Launches Storm Drain Project**

**Industrial** businesses in West Long Beach, many of them linked to the Port of Long Beach, depend heavily on the ability of commercial vehicles to move quickly and efficiently through the area. Unfortunately, during the winter months, street flooding during rainstorms causes traffic snarls, accidents and damage to local infrastructure.

In January 2004, after two years of research with a private consulting firm, the Westside Project Area Committee (PAC) and the Redevelopment Agency developed an action plan aimed at identifying major

problems affecting the West Long Beach Industrial Redevelopment Project Area. Although a number of issues were identified in the West Long Beach Strategy Action Plan, residents and businesses in the area agreed that the most important issue was the area's ongoing problem with street flooding.

Based on initial work done by the City's Public Works Department, the Redevelopment Agency and the Westside PAC decided to fund additional improvements to storm drains in the area and issued a Re-

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# Westside Flooding Impedes Commercial Traffic to Ports

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-quest for Proposals to engineering firms. DMJM Harris, selected in 2005, has begun development of a Storm Drain Improvement Plan that will identify work needed to address flood conditions in the area, specifically larger capacity drainage pipes needed to manage flood water volume in affected areas.

"Businesses and residents have long been concerned by the street flooding that takes place in our area," said Dan Berns, chair of the Westside Project Area Committee. "Flooded streets limit our ability to do business and cause slowdowns in the movement of goods through Long Beach.

"The Westside storm drain project will address the conditions that cause these ongoing problems."

The Storm Drain Improvement Project will take three years to complete. DMJM Harris will be meeting with community groups, businesses and the PAC to assess the needs of the area's businesses and residents and develop a plan for improvements. Construction is expected to start in 2007.

"This project fulfills one of the original promises of redevelopment when our project area was established back in 1975" added Berns, "We look forward to working closely with the engineers to ensure that the concerns of all residents and businesses are fully addressed."

The Redevelopment Agency has earmarked \$6 million for the project.



Westside storm drain in need of upgrade

## GET INVOLVED!!!

### Attend a Project Area Committee (PAC) Meeting!

**North PAC meeting** – 4th Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Long Beach Police Department, North Substation, 4891 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach.

**Central PAC Meeting** – 1st Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m., 241 Cedar St, First Congregational Church, Long Beach.

**West PAC Meeting** – 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:00 p.m. 1724 Santa Fe Avenue, Long Beach.

## Redevelopment Word of the Month

*Each month, SPOTLIGHT ON REDEVELOPMENT will highlight a word or term that is used regularly in the redevelopment process.*

### "Project Area Committee"

A Project Area Committee (PAC) is a group of community members who provide input on redevelopment projects and inform the community of progress being made.

PACs play a key role in forming the direction

of a project. They also help bridge the communication gap between the community and the agency. Anyone can get involved in a Project Area Committee by attending meetings.

The Redevelopment Agency has established three PACs—the North Long Beach PAC, the Westside PAC and the Central PAC.

*"Spotlight on Redevelopment" is an online publication of the Redevelopment Agency and is posted each month at <http://rda.longbeach.gov>. For additional information please contact [Mary\\_Nemick@longbeach.gov](mailto:Mary_Nemick@longbeach.gov) or 562-570-6316.*